

Budget-Visioning Report for: SC on Stewardship & Development

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- 1. If God's best future for the twenty-first century Episcopal Church were to be realized, what do you imagine happening in the next five years?**
 - a. Focus is the primary future. We need to become relevant to the world. We need to be intentional about our ministry to young adults and have a defined purpose.
- 2. For this vision of the church to be realized, what areas of ministry do you think should be given top priority in the next triennium?**
 - a. Those that are in transitional and formative times in their lives. Not expending energy and money on those who have already left. Focus upon building upon what we have rather than political battles.
- 3. Are there projects and expenditures currently within your area of oversight that should be continued during the next triennium? Please describe the most important ones, in order of importance.**
 - a. Development Office: Need funding to continue education of leadership, sources for capital campaigns and stewardship. Building an infrastructure for fundraising within the college of bishops, seminaries, and dioceses. Develop an early foundation for giving in ministry. Help develop vision and direction building skills and implement 'Characteristics of a Steward Leader'. The changes that have been made in the Development Office over the past two years have been significant and many previous problems have been eliminated. There is good staffing and a strategic plan in place to work from. We are significantly behind other mainline denominations in this regard who provided much more seed money in previous decades and now are raising significantly more than we are and have large endowments available from which to provide immediate funds for everything from mission priorities to disaster relief.
 - b. Funding for TENS: Although the 2012-2015 grant for TENS was presented as a one-time grant, this important ministry needs to be supplemented with an additional grant in the next triennium at a lower level that would decline over those three years to take TEC funding from 36% of the budget in 2016 to 16% of the budget by 2018, and then TENS would be fully self-sufficient after that.
- 4. Are there projects and expenditures currently within your oversight that can be discontinued at this time? (These might be expenditures that were valuable at a different time in our history, but are no longer as useful.) Please describe them.**
 - a. We do not currently have oversight outside of the meeting and travel expenses of our commission.
- 5. Are there visionary initiatives within your ministry area that you would like to see The Episcopal Church undertake in the next triennium? Please describe them and provide an estimate of the funding you would request for these projects.**
 - a. Early formational work on stewardship. Stewardship University. While there is a lot of energy from the wider church and many dioceses around Haiti and Navajoland, how do we get people excited about everyday realities of day to day church functions and then move beyond ourselves? Using social media

and equipping smaller parishes to utilize technology. Helping small town parishes to become 'cathedrals in their community,' becoming the focal point of community life.

- 6. For the projects you would like to see continued or started, what kind of church-wide staffing would be necessary to support them? Please do not suggest names, but rather positions and functions.**
 - a. Someone who can equip and teach media to parishes and diocese and also the realization of Stewardship University.
- 7. The Episcopal Church is likely to be moving toward a leaner model of denominational spending. Given this probability, where do you think funding for program resources will be most beneficially directed?**
 - a. B&C – We feel that some of the auxiliary groups that are a part of the Episcopal Church (TENS, etc.) need support without the hierarchy and cost of a national office and officer.
- 8. Are there church-wide areas of expenditure that you feel should be discontinued or substantially reduced?**
 - a. Shorten General Convention: Have as many subcommittee meetings beforehand as possible online. Allow GC to be computerized and have a vetting process for resolutions for decrease their volume. \$35,000 per resolution (quick math) is too costly. Be sure to take an offering at every worship service during General Convention.
- 9. Are there church-wide areas of expenditure that you feel should be substantially increased?**
 - a. Development Office and growth of endowment.
- 10. The Episcopal Church asks dioceses to contribute a certain amount of their diocesan income to the church-wide budget. The asking formula is set at 19% of diocesan income for the current triennium. Do you feel that the diocesan asking amount should be substantially reduced, increased, or held at the same level?**
 - a. 10-10-10: Let's begin with the tithe and have it be the expectation across the board. Currently, there is a disconnect between parishes, diocese, and the wider church. Information needs to be better shared with the people in the pews.
- 11. If the diocesan asking were reduced, how would you like to see our reduced resources directed?**
 - a. Reduce administrative and corporate expenses, directing resources toward programmatic funding.